

# C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

August 15, 2018

By email: [HSMV-Records@flhsmv.gov](mailto:HSMV-Records@flhsmv.gov)

Division of Motorist Services  
Bureau of Records  
2900 Apalachee Pkwy, MS 89  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0500

**Re: Public Information Act Request**

Dear Sir or Madam:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for records from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (the “Department”), regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to the Fla. Stat. § 119.01 *et seq.*

Specifically, CfA seeks any and all records related to the Department’s Choose Life specialty license plate program (the “Program”).<sup>1</sup> This includes, but is not limited to, any communications, documents, or reports related to the Program, any communications to, from, or between any member of Choose Life, Inc. or Choose Life, Florida, and the Department regarding the Program, and any guidelines or instructions regarding how Program funds are distributed. This request also includes all records regarding the amount of money and recipients of funds distributed by the Program as designated by Fla. Stat. § 320.08058, section 29 (“Choose Life License Plates”).

This request is for records from January 1, 2015 to the present.

By way of background, on June 8, 1999, Gov. Jeb Bush signed the Choose Life license plate program into law.<sup>2</sup> In 2011 Gov. Rick Scott clarified the program by signing HB 501, which directs all of the proceeds from the program to Choose Life, Inc.<sup>3</sup> Choose Life, Inc. then distributes the money proportionally to the counties where the plates were purchased. The money is distributed to qualified agencies that are “pregnancy resource centers, maternity homes or non-profit adoption agencies that counsel for adoption.”<sup>4</sup>

Where possible, please produce records electronically. If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, please state the basis of the

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.flhsmv.gov/dmv/specialtytags/miscellaneous/choose\\_life.html](https://www.flhsmv.gov/dmv/specialtytags/miscellaneous/choose_life.html).

<sup>2</sup> *Relating to Choose Life License Plates*, Ch. 1999-30, June 8, 1999; <https://www.flchoose-life.org/choose-life-story.php>.

<sup>3</sup> *Relating to Choose Life License Plates*, Ch. 2011-186, June 21, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.flchoose-life.org/>.

exemption. Fla. Stat. §§ 119.071, 119.0711, 119.0712, and 119.0713. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(e). Please explain in writing and with particularity the reasons for any determination that a record is exempt from disclosure. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(f). In the event that a portion of a requested record is properly exempt from disclosure, please redact that portion and produce the remainder of the requested record. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(d). If you deny this request in whole or in part, please specify each exemption on which you are relying to withhold information.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to inform and educate the public about the state's oversight responsibilities regarding public funding for private organizations. Accordingly, because CfA seeks the information to benefit the general public, we request that the information be provided without charge. If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200 and please provide a written explanation for the estimated cost of processing the request.

Please promptly acknowledge this request and respond in good faith. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(c). If, you foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, please contact me at 202-780-5750. Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Department to process it.

If possible, please email the records to me at [dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org](mailto:dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org). If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Ave, SE #337 Washington, D.C. 20003.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan E. Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel E. Stevens  
Executive Director